

## Solid Waste Advisory Committee

December 9, 2008; 4:15PM  
General Services Department  
Combined Operations and Maintenance Facility  
311 North State Street

### Meeting Minutes

Present: Councilor Keith Nyhan, Chair, Councilor Fred Keach, Councilor Dick Lemieux, Councilor Bill Stetson, Councilor Liz Blanchard, Melanie Doiron, Paula Mattis, Mike Russell

Guest: Matt Walsh

Staff: Tom Aspell, Chip Chesley, Bob McManus, Vanessa Ghiden

Excused: Councilor Werner, Jeff Myers, Greg Banks

### **Review and Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of November 24, 2008, were reviewed. Councilor Blanchard noted that she was not present in spite of what the draft minutes indicated. Councilor Lemieux approved the minutes with the change and Councilor Keach seconded it. The minutes were approved by the Committee.

### **Communication Plan Presentations**

Councilor Nyhan told the committee about the meeting with the Concord Monitor's editorial board. Mayor Bouley, Councilor Nyhan, Chip Chesley, Tom Aspell, Pat Winn and Bob McManus met with the Concord Monitor to explain the work the committee has done so far. The reporter wrote a good article explaining the problems Concord is facing; however, the consensus of the committee was that it did clearly articulate that the committee is looking for public input. Councilor Nyhan is preparing a My Turn piece for consideration by the Concord Monitor to raise this point. He went on to tell the committee that he along with Councilor Keach will be WKXL's Coffee Chat program hosted Doris Ballard on Friday morning(December 12) The group includes Tom Aspell, Mayor Bouley, Councilor Nyhan, Councilor Keach and Chip Chesley. To assist Doris, it was the consensus of the committee to forward her some talking points . Councilor Blanchard noted that Penacook cannot get WKXL so not everyone will be able to hear the show.

Noting the recent article in the newspapers, members asked about the drop in the recycling market. How does it affect us? General Services staff reported that the contractor derives the benefits and bears the risk of selling recyclables in the current contract. Staff also noted that they are considering a revenue sharing program indexed to the market in their work for the next Request for Proposals to be issued early next calendar year.

The committee then talked about having written piece in the Concord Monitor's Insider with Danielle Kronk. Members noted that the articles in this section of the paper are more playfully written. Councilor Keach said he would like to do something with the Anatomy of a Trash Bag. Councilor Lemieux and Melanie Doiron agreed to help and thought afternoons are better to meet.

Councilor Nyhan advised of his upcoming ward meeting at the West Street Ward House on December 16. This will help get people to engage and ask questions. Tom Aspell noted that though input was a core message in the meeting with the Monitor staff it was not as clear in the article. The My Turn article can highlight the request for resident's input and be a rebuttal to some of the letters to the editor.

### **Meetings with Multi-family – Condo and Apartments**

Bob McManus and Pat Winn have been meeting with landlords and owners of buildings using the City's contracted dumpster service. They have met with Hodges, CATCH, Concord Housing Authority and MorningStar, Penacook Place and Concord Commons so far. Bob reported that generally the landlords and owners are not excited about paying for trash collection even with recycling. They understand the dilemma but are looking at their bottom line. Many asked about price and staff stressed that the City's price will be less than the market price for the same service. Each site has different configurations and some sites may have significant changes. The committee discussed the costs and how owners may be charge for excess capacity. Bob mentioned that some places thought that tenants would need bins but reminded the committee that these tenants have access to the recycling dumpster every day. A question came up whether landlords were worried about others using dumpsters. Bob told the committee that some of these sites have illegal dumping problems now and there are locks for the dumpsters.

Councilor Blanchard asked if Dover is getting 40% recycling rates then why are we not looking for this rate? Chip explained that we are hopeful for this rate but we should recognize that Dover has had a Pay As You Throw program for some time.

Councilor Nyhan asked staff for a written report of the landlord meetings to memorialize and note that we spoke to them. The discussion continued with committee members asking about the possibility of changing the number of times

a dumpster is picked up or changing the number of dumpsters at the site. Chip noted that currently we are looking at the big picture but soon we will start looking at the smaller more individual ones. Members wondered how will landlords provide an incentive to tenants to recycle and if apartment complexes can opt out of the City's collection. Tom Aspell asked staff to tally all the questions on the written report and make sure questions are answered. He noted that apartment property owners want the economy of collection and that economy of scale will be reflected in the price.

Melanie stated that the summary sheet should be revised noting listing there is no incentive to recycle as a disadvantage with the Stay the Same option

### **Tax Basis Spreadsheet**

Jim Howard presented a preliminary review of the cost of residential service to an average residential property owner. He noted that this was a preliminary analysis and he needs a little further time to refine the figures. He wanted to share the methodology with the committee. He provided the committee with a spreadsheet on property tax assessment/

Jim noted that \$2,613,691 is the cost for residential collection and disposal of solid waste; the only revenue directly associated with this service is property taxes. This amount the general fund pays for solid waste. He noted if you divide this by \$2,301,674, the tax value of the residential properties, you obtain a tax rate of \$1.13. Multiply this tax rate (\$1.13) by \$240,000 value of average home and you get \$273 cost through taxes.

He then reviewed the cost impact with Pay As You Throw in place. Jim noted you need to add \$250,000 for the cost of the bags to the \$2,613,691- the residential cost for collection and disposal of solid waste –which will increase cost of residential collection and disposal of solid waste is \$2,865,691. He noted you then subtract the revenue collected from the sale of bags that is estimated at \$2,011,000 from new cost of residential collection and disposal of solid waste is \$2,865,691 and you get the cost of residential collection and disposal of solid waste to be paid for by taxes. This (\$2,865,691 - \$2,011,000) equals \$854,691. You divide the \$854,691 by \$2,301,674 which is the tax value of the residential properties you get a tax rate of \$0.37. Multiply this tax rate (\$0.37) by \$240,000 value of average home and you get \$89 cost through taxes. Add the \$89 in taxes for solid waste to the cost of bags for an average family who is estimated to use 1.3 bags per week at \$2.00 per bag ( $1.3 \times 52 \times 2$ ) is \$135 for bags and then you see that the average homeowner under Pay as you throw will pay \$224 per year for solid waste (\$89 + \$135). In closing, he reminded the committee that he hasn't had time to confirm the cost figures he was using, but advised this method of analysis truly reflects the cost to residential properties for both options.

The committee continued to discuss the analysis how this is different from the \$49 on the summary sheet. Jim and Bob explained that the amounts above do not include the subsidy from commercial properties that pay taxes but do not receive solid waste services. The method explained above is a true cost method.

The committee agreed to continue this discussion at the next meeting on Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:15PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.